

SSCR 8404 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Higher Education

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 4/9/09

Strike everything beginning with line 1 and insert the following:

"WHEREAS, Chapter 238, Laws of 1991 created the workforce training and education coordinating board to provide planning, coordination, evaluation, monitoring, and policy analysis for the state training system as a whole and advice to the governor and legislature concerning the training system, in cooperation with the agencies that comprise the state training system and the higher education coordinating board; and

WHEREAS, Section 2, chapter 130, Laws of 1995 requires the board to update the state comprehensive plan for workforce training and education and requires the legislature, following public hearings, to approve or make changes to the updates; and

WHEREAS, The state faces the workforce challenges of: (1) Ensuring all Washington youth receive the education, training, and support they need for success in postsecondary education and/or work; (2) providing Washington adults, including those with barriers to education and employment, with access to lifelong education, training, and employment services; and (3) meeting the workforce needs of industry by preparing students, current workers, and dislocated workers with the skills employers need; and

WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan for 2008 has a ten-year horizon through 2018 and the following eight strategic opportunities on which to focus:

(1) Increase high school graduation rates and ensure youth are prepared for further education and/or work;

(2) Expand the availability of career pathways that span secondary and postsecondary education and training;

(3) Increase postsecondary education and training capacity to close the gap between the need of employers for skilled workers and the supply of Washington residents prepared to meet that need;

(4) Increase financial aid and support services for workforce

1 education students to provide greater access to training and boost
2 retention and completion;

3 (5) Increase adult basic skills and English language instruction
4 that is integrated with occupational skills training to assist
5 illiterate populations, immigrants, low-income workers, and unemployed
6 individuals to improve their employment opportunities;

7 (6) Improve coordination between workforce and economic development
8 in key economic clusters through initiatives such as Industry Skill
9 Panels and Centers of Excellence;

10 (7) Meet employee education and training needs by providing
11 transferrable skills that are generally marketable and lead to career
12 advancement for low-skilled workers through employer and employee
13 accountable customized training, workplace-based learning, flexible
14 methods of education delivery, and cost-efficient new ways of funding
15 employee training; and

16 (8) Identify barriers for improving and expanding employment,
17 education, and training services and remove those barriers; and

18 WHEREAS, The state comprehensive plan includes: Assessments of our
19 state's employment opportunities and skills needs, the present and
20 future workforce, three goals, and more than sixty strategies for
21 meeting the workforce challenges; and identifies entities responsible
22 for carrying out the strategies; and

23 WHEREAS, The workforce training and education coordinating board
24 used an inclusive process of work groups and public hearings and
25 contact with approximately 3,500 individuals to develop consensus on
26 the strategies identified in the plan and has secured the unanimous
27 endorsement of critical constituencies, including business, labor, and
28 the agencies delivering workforce services; and

29 WHEREAS, The provisions of the comprehensive plan and its updates
30 that are approved by the legislature become the state's workforce
31 policy unless legislation is enacted to alter the policies set forth
32 therein; and

33 WHEREAS, The legislature recommends that the next update to the
34 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training, "High
35 Skills, High Wages," include an emphasis upon jobs that build the green
36 economy and a strong focus on making Washington a global leader in
37 technology and manufacturing for the renewable energy industry;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of
2 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, hereby approve the
3 2008-2018 state comprehensive plan for workforce training, "High
4 Skills, High Wages.""

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